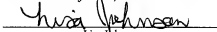


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Clifton A. Alferness	Examiner: GILBERT, Samuel G.
Appln. No.: 10/809,962	Group Art Unit: 3736
Filing Date: March 26, 2004	Confirmation No: 7915
Title: CARDIAC SUPPORT DEVICE WITH DIFFERENTIAL EXPANSION	Docket No. 59013-331629
	Customer No.: 25764

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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I hereby certify that this correspondence, addressed to:
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22313-1450; is being transmitted electronically to the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office on June 27, 2006.


Lisa Johnson

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This Amendment and Response is in reply to the outstanding Office Action mailed February 2, 2006, and includes the following:

1. Introductory Comments beginning on page 2 of this paper;
2. Claim Amendments beginning on page 3 of this paper; and
3. Remarks beginning on page 9 of this paper.

Also enclosed are the following documents:

1. Request for Extension of Time; and
2. Credit Card Payment Form for extension of time.

Should any additional fee be required for entry of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Faegre & Benson Deposit Account No. 06-0029 and in such event, is requested to notify us of the same.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This communication is fully responsive to the Office Action set forth above, in which claims 18, 19, 22-28, 34 and 35 were pending. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 18, 19, 22-23, 25-26, 28, and 34-35, and objected to claims 24 and 27.

By this Amendment and Response, claims 18 and 23 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Additionally, claims 24 and 27 have been cancelled, and new claims 36 and 37 have been added and correspond to claims 24 and 27, respectively, rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 18, 19, 22-23, 25-26, 28 and 34-37 are currently pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of these claim amendments and the accompanying Remarks is respectfully requested.